

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/786,680	ONISHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cheukfan Lee	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed December 27, 2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13 and 19-22, now renumbered 1-17, respectively.
3. The drawings filed on 08 March 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

1. All pending claims 1-13 and 19-22 are allowed. Claims 21 and 22 are newly added. Claims 1 and 19-21 are independent.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation "wherein the case is formed with a plurality of projections extending toward the light sources in corresponding relationship thereto, each of the projections having a tip surface facing a light-emitting surface of a respective one of the light sources for blocking light emitted from the respective light source". This feature in combination with other limitations of claim 1 is not taught by the prior art of record. The examiner agrees with Applicant on that the claimed feature is not taught by the previously applied prior art Sawase et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,231). Please refer to Applicant's remarks filed December 27, 2004, page 9, the second paragraph.

Claims 8-13 depend upon claim 1.

Independent claim 19 was indicated allowed in the previous Office Action dated July 1, 2004. The reason for allowance given in that Action is repeated below.

Claim 19 is allowable over the prior art of record including the closest prior art Sawase et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,231). Sawase et al. does not disclose auxiliary elements provided on the obverse surface of the substrate (6), which auxiliary elements are covered by at least selected ones of the partitions as claimed in claim 19.

New independent claim 21 and its dependent 22 correspond to previously objected dependent claims 9 and 10, which were indicated to contain allowable subject matter in the previous Office action dated July 1, 2004. The reason for allowance is the same as that for claim 19, for claim 21 (or claim 9) claiming limitations similar to those of claim 19. As discussed for claim 19, Sawase et al. does not disclose auxiliary elements provided on the obverse surface of the substrate (6), which auxiliary elements are covered by at least selected ones of the partitions as claimed in claim 21.

Independent claim 20 has been amended to overcome the art rejection set forth in the previous Office Action dated July 1, 2004. The new limitation "wherein the lens array includes a lens holder and a plurality of lenses held in the lens holder, the projection of the transparent plate coming into pressing contact with the lens holder without contacting the lenses", in combination with other limitations of claim 20 is not taught by the prior art of record. The transparent plate of the closest prior art Iso et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,489,995) is in contact with the entire top surface of the lens array (7). Please see also the newly cited prior art below, which does not teach the newly added limitation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fujimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,285) discloses a contact type image sensor (Fig. 3) having a transparent plate (20) having an end section coming into pressing contact with the lens holder (6).

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (703) 305-4867. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
February 17, 2005



The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Cheukfan Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheukfan" on top and the last name "Lee" below it, though they are connected.